

# Big Apple USO Offers High-End Services for Marines On Shoestring Budgets

By Gunnery Sgt. Tim McGough, NEW YORK

If you fly into either LaGuardia or Kennedy airports and take a cab into Manhattan, you'll soon realize your wallet is about 50 bills lighter than it was. And when you go out to dinner at any of the thousands of restaurants here in the city, you may walk out too broke to catch a cab back to the hotel.

Most have heard stories like these, and maybe they are true. But service members and their families can avoid horror stories like these and have a great time in New York City with a minimal amount of money.

◀ Arguably Times Square is the "center of the known universe." Especially when Marines are involved in an event there. Attractions include Broadway theaters, ABC Studios, Toys R Us and of course the most famous military recruiting station in the world.

Photo by Cpl. Beth Zimmerman



## LOUD & CLEAR

"At one point we were walking with our bikes over our heads in waist-deep mud for over two miles...that gets old real quick."

— Gunnery Sgt. Troy Black, a member of Team Parris Island said of the Adventure Concepts Florida Coast to Coast Eco-adventure Race

"Your first stop is the United Service Organization's Gen. Douglas MacArthur Memorial Center's Web page at [www.usony.org](http://www.usony.org)," said Hazel Cathers, director of the center. "We offer so many discounts for service members who visit New York."

The USO is located on 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue in the Port Authority Bus Terminal. They offer free theater tickets when available, but ask for a \$3 donation. "The service member is saving 97 percent on theater tickets," said Cathers. "Most tickets are \$100. Now that is a great savings."

For those wishing to see the sites of the city, the USO offers bus tours of the most famous sites in Manhattan and boat tours around the island are also available.

"Most military personnel don't know the city that well, so we help plan vacation packages for them," said Cathers. "All a person has to do is call us, give us a little information on what they want and their budget and we set up everything for them."

For those not interested in the theater or the sites, the city offers some of the best museums in the world, including the Guggenheim and the

Metropolitan Museum of Art, both at the Upper Eastside on Fifth Avenue, or the American Museum of Natural History on Central Park West. Service members with valid identification cards can get in most of them for free.

"There are a lot of free things to do in the city," said Cathers. "But there are also a lot of things to see and do that cost money. For that we have a thing called the New York Pass."

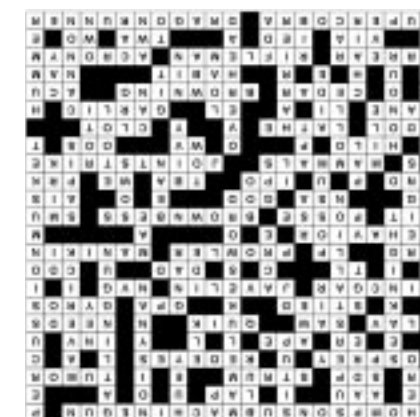
The NY-Pass is full of discounts on movies, shopping, restaurants, hotels and countless other attractions in the Big Apple. "The pass saves so much money at so many places in the city, you can't beat the deal," said Cathers. "We have NY-Pass for one, three and seven days."

New York City is host to many professional and collegiate sporting events, and the USO offers tickets to many of them. Tickets go quickly, said Cathers. Service members can, however, call in advance and place their names on a waiting list.

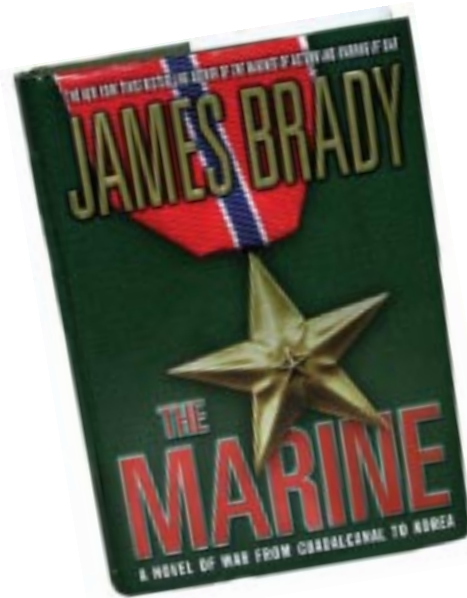
During baseball season, service members can get into Yankees and Mets games simply by going to the press gate and showing their IDs. "They can get in unless the team is having a promotional

night like bat night or something like that," said Cathers.

New York City—the city that never sleeps, the big apple or any name you want to give it—is open for business. Yes, it is expensive and yes, a couple could easily spend their children's college tuition shopping on Fifth Ave., but with some prior planning and some budgetary management, living like a Rockefeller, at least for a weekend, isn't out of the question. Call the NY USO at 212-695-6160 to find out how. **M**







**Review by Sgt. John Neal**  
1ST MARINE CORPS DISTRICT,  
Garden City, NY

James "Oliver" Cromwell was just another rich kid from New York who went to Notre Dame because that's where his father went. He tried out for the Fighting Irish because his father played on the team. But when he injures the team's star player in practice, Cromwell becomes the black sheep of the university. His reputation as a hard hitter lands him a spot on the school's boxing team and the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Cromwell doesn't get a medal in the Olympics, but later joins the Marine Corps where his fighting

### Marine Corps Association Top Sellers

November 2003

**Gates of Fire**  
By Steven Pressfield

**Welcome to Vietnam, Macho Man**  
By Ernest Spencer

**My Dying Breath**  
By Ben Reed

**Keeping the Faith**  
By John Shaeffer and Frank Shaeffer

**The Petrified Heart**  
By Charles E. Patterson

## THE MARINE: A NOVEL OF WAR FROM GUADALCANAL TO KOREA

By James Brady  
Thomas Dunne Books  
A Division of St. Martin's Press

skills are put to better use.

The Marine: A Novel of War From Guadalcanal to Korea is the 15th book by columnist and author James Brady. It is also his fourth book about Marines and his third on the Korean War.

Brady, who fought in Korea as a young lieutenant and earned the Bronze Star with Combat "V" device for valor, combines his personal combat experiences with in-depth research to provide a captivating tale of courage under fire and the chaos of war.

As a young officer in the dawn of World War II, Cromwell involuntarily becomes the All-Pacific boxing champion. When the war starts against the Japanese, he is eager to join any unit just to get in the real fight. His hard punches and talent for fighting land him in Evan Carlson's Raider Battalion, where he learns more than just hooking and jabbing.

The Raiders are the first Marines to bloody Japan's nose with a raid at Makin before Guadalcanal. Cromwell then goes on to fight at Guadalcanal and Saipan, and then sits out the rest of the war in a hospital in Australia.

In the years after World War II, Cromwell stays in the Marine Corps knowing there's going to be another fight. Lt. Col. Cromwell is sent to Seoul, South Korea as the military attaché to the American ambassador. He's not in Korea for more than a day when the North Korean army invades the South and sends the South Koreans on a chaotic route to Pusan.

Cromwell and his team of Marines soon join the 1st

Marine Provisional Brigade in the defense of the Pusan Perimeter, and later join the 1st Marine Division at Inchon and Seoul.

Brady contrasts the jungle scenes of Makin with the urban fighting at Seoul but highlights the chaotic nature of combat. The Raid at Makin started out as a success, but as the tides changed and the Marines found themselves stranded on the island, even the elite Raider Battalion found itself in dire straits. The Korean conflict proved to be opposite. The South Korean and American army were overwhelmed and Korea seemed to be lost. Hard fighting and a surprise landing at Inchon saved South Korea.

Colorful characters are a staple of James Brady's novels. In addition to the warrior Cromwell, there's the Warrant Officer "Gunny" Arzt who introduces Cromwell to the Raider Battalion and dies fighting at Iwo Jima. There is also Cromwell's Marine embassy guards who accompany him throughout the Korean War.

The combination of historical fact and fictional points of view makes for entertaining and educational reading. The historical play-by-play in the second half of the book sheds light on the first three months of the Korean War; however, it tends to slow down the story's pace. But when James "Oliver" Cromwell goes into Raider mode in the final chapters, things get really interesting. Though not as dramatic as The Marines of Autumn, The Marine is still a great read and pays tremendous tribute the courageous actions of Marines in World War II and the start of the oft-called "Forgotten War." **M**

## Tools of the Trade

### ACROSS

- Weapon popular with gangsters and Marines in post World War I years
- Unit Equipment
- Association of American Universities
- It appears when you sit down
- Navy's \_\_\_ 1 Deep Submerged Craft
- Strategic Distribution Platform
- What you do to a guitar
- Abnormal mass of tissue
- Corps' new tilt rotor 'sea eagle'
- Corps' first light weight, shoulder-fired, surface-to-air missiles, introduced in 1960s
- Emergency Room
- Mimic
- In-Transit Visibility
- 8-wheeled, all-terrain vehicle with amphibious capabilities
- Light machine gun is a fire team's basis of fire power
- With 92 across, wound coagulator treatment
- Wants
- Contained in a sty
- Grade Point Average
- Greek sandwiches
- Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio
- \$100,000 per-shot weapons system replacing the Dragon
- Seeing-enhancer lets Marines work in the dark
- Team Leader
- Pop
- Command Duty Officer
- Amphibious Ready Group
- Listening Post
- A command and control center in the sky
- Department store clothes holder
- Mother's warning: Be on your best \_\_\_\_\_
- What a horse takes between its teeth
- Large group with a common goal
- Continental Marines' smoothbore musket, named for its stock color
- Supply Management Unit
- Inspector General
- National Security Agency
- Almighty being
- Automated Information System
- With the, the last two words of a fairy tale
- International Program Office
- To Be Announced
- All of us
- Photo Refractive Keratotomy
- Humans, dogs, monkeys are few examples
- This air Fighter was designed for the Marines, Air Force and Navy
- A tsunami hit this Hawaiian town in 1960

- West Virginia
- Out Of Service
- Lance Cpl. Josh Gracin starred on this American one
- Woodworking machine used to shape wood
- With 33 across, wound coagulator treatment
- Walking aide
- Actor Jet \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Nino
- Vampire repellent
- Type of wood, its chips are aromatic
- Machine gun Marines used in Spanish-American war in Cuba
- Assault Craft Unit
- Nun's wear it
- Navy Achievement Medal
- Late to pay a debt
- Gen. Gray said every Marine is one of these first
- This puzzle uses a lot of these in the answers
- Through
- Improvised Explosive Device
- Flight 800, which crashed in 1996, belonged to this airline
- Warrant Officer
- Attack helicopter introduced into the Corps in 1986
- This 'fire breather' provides situational awareness on the ground

### DOWN

- Tavern where Marine Corps originated
- Could be a courageous person or a sandwich
- Military Academic Skills Program
- San Diego baseball mascot
- Marine Corps' heavy lift workhorse in the sky
- Exercise to strengthen abs

- Smudge
- Oldest weapon in U.S. arsenal, carried by Marine officers
- Associated Press
- UH-1N nickname
- A.A. Cunningham rented this aircraft in 1911
- One of first machine guns used during Civil War
- Weapon Marines used to subdue 1859 Harper's Ferry rebellion
- Missile that shares a nickname with Top Gun Tom Cruise
- Old timers called this the 'flying banana'
- Type of moose
- To impress with authority
- Ohio congressman
- What you breathe
- Opposite of don't
- E-5
- Disk Jockey
- Another word for snarl or growl
- Slang for a mop-wielding Sailor
- Plot of arable land
- Binary chemical compound suffix
- Gunnery Sgt. Hartman was one
- Rules
- Playing \_\_\_\_\_
- Daisy or Fannie
- Vice-President
- Retrograde Storage Area
- Halloween refrain
- Jack had three magical ones
- Female pigs
- Armored plate inserts that saved Marine lives in Iraq
- Another way of saying murk
- The worldwide 'where are we' position finder
- Buddy
- Illinois
- Tube-Launched, Optically tracked,

- Wire-guided missile system
- Modular sleeping bag protector
- Hand-held Marine Corps digging device
- You run three of these as part of the PFT
- Unpopular field pack in the process of being replaced
- Capable
- Type of unleavened bread
- Shipboard hospitals
- With Courage and Commitment, the Corps' core concepts
- A Marine's ceiling
- District Attorney
- Assistant
- This attack aircraft sports a Rolls Royce engine
- Some are made with tin
- Long Range Aircraft
- Type of sandy mud
- Southern for get, as in, \_\_\_\_\_ out of here!
- A very large type of gun
- Vehicle popular with the military and civilians also goes b
- Place to sit down
- Women's Basketball Association
- Author who wrote *Under a Glass Bell* in 1944
- Low island or reef of sand or coral
- The night before Christmas
- Riverene Assault Craft
- Adam gave one up for Eve
- Food and Drug Administration
- Yawn without the Y
- Automobile
- Possess
- Take me \_\_\_ the ball game

Answers to Crossword on page 37

To learn more about the theme answers in this puzzle, visit <http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf/marinesmagazine>.